

Peru Action & News

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Presidential Elections in Peru New Face for a Rotten State

On June 3 Alejandro Toledo was declared the winner of Peru's run-off election for president. This election is a key part of the attempts by the reactionary rulers of Peru and their U.S. imperialist backers to stabilize their oppressive setup in Peru by putting a new "democratic" face on the government.

The Peruvian rulers and the imperialists had seen the situation in Peru spin dangerously out of their control with the fall of former president Alberto Fujimori and his CIA-connected right-hand man, Vladimiro Montesinos. Now, they are declaring the election of Toledo a "victory for democracy." Toledo, with his Indian roots and "humble" background, is being promoted as someone who is different from the other politicians of the discredited ruling establishment. But Toledo is still a representative of the exploiters and oppressors who rule Peru—and his election will bring nothing good for the masses of Peruvian people.

The Fall of Fujimori and the Rulers' Crisis

Through most of the 1990s, the U.S. imperialists considered the Fujimori regime an effective defender of their interests in Peru. But by last year, infighting within the Peruvian ruling class was greatly intensifying and coming to the surface. In July Fujimori and Montesinos used open fraud

and intimidation to steal the presidential election. Soon, things began to fall apart for this U.S. puppet.

The election touched off large protests in Lima and around the country. Thousands took to the streets of Lima and torched six government buildings, including the Bank of the Republic. This outpouring of rage was not only in response to the blatant corruption and fraud surrounding the elections—it also revealed broad hatred of and opposition to the ten years of dictatorial rule by Fujimori.

In 1992 Fujimori, Montesinos, and the military had seized absolute control of the state through their "self-coup." On this basis—and with the firm support of U.S. imperialism—the Fujimori regime unleashed a bloody counter-revolutionary campaign against the Maoist People's War led by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP). Thousands were convicted of political crimes by secret military tribunals—most are still imprisoned today. The CIA-trained National Intelligence Service, controlled by Montesinos, became infamous for torture and rape of detainees and forced "confessions."

Government troops and death squads carried out massacres and disappearances. One well-known case was the La Cantuta massacre of 1991—when nine students and a professor from a teacher's college were kidnapped, killed, and buried in a mass grave by a government death squad. Several military officers were convicted of

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People's War Actions During the Election Period

The Lima magazine *Caretas* (#1671 - May 24, 2001) recently quoted extensively from a report release by Peru's Armed Forces, which documents some of the military and political actions led by the Communist Party of Peru during the recent election campaign. According to *Caretas*, the report says that during the first week of April there were 114 actions though out the countryside carried out by the Maoist revolutionaries calling on the People to boycott the elections.

The report also cites 18 actions in Lima since January. These, according to *Caretas*, include distribution of leaflets calling for a boycott of the elections at the University of San Marcos, La Cantuta, the Jiron Gamarra in La Victoria, the schools of San Juan de Miraflores and Villa El Salvador, and the districts of San Mart in de Porres and Santa Anita.

Another protest against the elections broke into the mainstream press in Peru just days before the June 3 runoff. On April 28 and 29 two towns were temporarily taken over by the fighters of the People's War in the Andean region of Ayacucho. Press reports said that 40 Maoist fighters called on the people not to vote and that they painted slogans calling for an "armed strike" from June 2 to June 4.

One of the most vivid of recent actions of the PCP was on April 27 when a huge hammer and sickle made of painted rocks appeared on a hillside overlooking the town of Pachacútec in the province of Ventanilla. It was about 25 feet long and 19 feet wide. According to news reports, when the communist symbol appeared during the night, chants of "long live the armed struggle" could be heard. ★

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Protesters in front the National Police Airbase in Lima with a poster of Montesinos behind bars. Montesinos, a dreaded spymaster who worked closely with the CIA and built an empire of corruption, was flown back to the Peru on June 25th after being caught in Venezuela (see pg. 7).

the crime, but they were freed in 1995 by Fujimori's general amnesty for police and military.

Such savage methods against the revolution generally met with the approval of the U.S. imperialists and the Peruvian rulers. But as various contradictions within Peru's ruling class began to heat up, the Fujimori regime's position crumbled. A few months after Fujimori declared himself the winner of the July 2000 election, a major scandal broke when videos surfaced showing Montesinos bribing and extorting congressmen, judges, and television stations and newspapers. Fujimori tried to save himself by firing Montesinos, who then fled Peru. But soon Fujimori himself was forced to flee, and he faxed his resignation last November from Japan.

A "Choice" Between Two Ruling Class Faces

The Fujimori scandal exposed every ruling class institution—from the congress to the courts to the media—as thoroughly rotten and corrupt. Since the fall of Fujimori, the Peruvian ruling figures have been scrambling to distance themselves from the previous regime by promising various reforms and "investigations" of crimes under Fujimori.

In this context, Peru's exploiting classes and their U.S. backers hope that the June 3 elections, which Toledo won by a narrow margin, can restore some measure of stability to their system and a façade of "democracy" to the government.

But these recent elections have given Peruvians more reason than ever to distrust the politicians and the system. Alfredo Torres, director of Apoyo, a mainstream Lima political consulting firm, said "I don't think Toledo will have a strong mandate. For a large number of voters he was the lesser of two evils."

In Peru people who are caught not voting are subject to a huge fine—which is a serious burden for poor and working people. But still, about 18.5% of voters stayed home completely on June 3. And of those who did vote, 13% cast blank or spoiled ballots. The *New York Times* reported, "The level of disenchantment was palpable...at the voting station in the working class Lima barrio of Surquillo, where it was difficult to find a single voter who was enthusiastic about either candidate." The *Times* quoted a 48-year-old dressmaker who left her ballot blank: "I voted to avoid the fine; politicians are always promising and disappointing."

The campaign between Toledo and Alan Garcia, a former president from 1985 to 1990, was an ugly display of mud-slinging. Their main issue was who is more dishonest and corrupt. In a televised debate, Toledo accused Garcia of living abroad for the past eight years to avoid prosecution for stealing government funds while president and

revealed that Garcia takes medication for a manic-depressive disorder. Garcia in turn accused Toledo of pocketing campaign funds, abandoning a daughter born out of wedlock, and using cocaine while in the company of three prostitutes in 1998.

For the masses, there really was no choice at all. Both candidates made big promises of helping the poor. But both are loyal representatives of Peru's exploiting classes, defending the interests of the big bourgeoisie and big landlords allied with the U.S. imperialists. Both candidates stressed continuing in place the economic and social programs imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which have caused severe hardships and increased poverty among tens of millions in Peru.

During the time Garcia was president in 1985-86, the government and military carried out many atrocities in their attempt to defeat the People's War. More than 2,600 Peruvians were disappeared. In 1986 Garcia ordered the military to assault three Lima prisons and massacre more than 300 revolutionary political prisoners in cold blood.

During the recent campaign, Garcia said he hoped to work with U.S. President Bush to push forward the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and to broaden Plan Colombia. The FTAA would allow U.S. imperialism to further tighten domination over the economies of Latin American countries. And under Plan Colombia, the U.S. is greatly increasing military aid to the reactionary armed forces in Colombia and stepping up intervention in the Andean region.

For his part, Toledo tried to use his Indian ancestry and his childhood poverty to claim he is a



man of the people. But Toledo has credentials as a loyal lap-dog for the U.S., including training in the principles of imperialist globalization at the elite Harvard and Stanford Universities. He was an executive at the World Bank and ran a business that specialized in advising multinational corporations in the best ways to exploit Peru's people and maximize profit.

Toledo's main economic advisor is Pedro Kuczynski, who commutes every few days between Lima and Miami, where he manages the Latin American Investment Fund. Kuczynski has held several managerial positions with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Wall Street investors are expressing confidence that with Kuczynski in charge of Peru's economy, their interests will be well represented.

A Real Alternative—The People's War

U.S. bankers and investors may feel that Toledo will represent their interests well. But his election does not represent the interests or the will of millions of oppressed people in Peru.

Peru is a country where conditions cry out for revolution. Half of its 26 million people live in extreme poverty. Only 1.5 million people have adequate employment, out of a work force of 12.5 million. Every year about 32,000 children under the age of five die of malnutrition and poverty.

As the PCP has analyzed, the basic cause of these problems is the rule of the comprador bourgeoisie and big landlords and domination of imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism. In 1980 the PCP initiated the protracted People's War—

Report on the 7th IEC Delegation to Peru

May 12, 2001

The 7th IEC delegation accomplished a great deal in the time they were in Lima, Peru. While they did not succeed in visiting Dr. Guzman, they broke new ground in IEC efforts. The delegation met several times with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman Office. They held a frank discussion with the general who is President of the Supreme Council of Military Justice. In all of these meetings the Peruvian officials had to acknowledge that there were no legal grounds to deny Dr. Abimael Guzman direct contact with his lawyers.

The delegation also talked with the Red Cross. They also met with the Dean of the Lima Bar Association and other lawyers. The delegates also talked personally with relatives of political prisoners, and people met on the streets of Lima. The delegates report that they learned a great deal about the situation in Peru, and that their presence and words - "you are not alone" - conveyed a welcome message of international support directly to the people.

On Thursday, March 29th, the 7th IEC delegation held a major press conference in the America Hall of the Bolivar Grand Hotel in the center of Lima. It was covered by a horde of Peruvian and international press, including TV crews from at least nine channels, and many reporters from radio and newspapers (see photo).

The 7th IEC delegation issued a statement at their press conference titled "A MESSAGE TO THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE" which read, in part:

"...we have gone to the civilian and military authorities demanding to meet with Dr. Abimael Guzman and verify his state of health and well being and we have hopes of being able to achieve this.

"The concerns about Dr. Guzman's health, which come from all corners of the world, are so much more important because the Fujimori-Montesinos dictatorship used his isolation to claim to speak in his name. It is unacceptable to attribute declarations to Dr. Guzman as long as he does not make them in a direct form before the mass media and without any kind of pressure. No government has the authority to speak on behalf of its political prisoners. And, of course, the only way to verify the changes that the government has indicated regarding his treatment is that Dr. Guzman be able to express himself in person."

All seven of the delegates spoke to the press and answered the questions of the reporters who crowded around the international delegation at the



7th IEC DELEGATION HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN LIMA, PERU - MARCH 29TH, 2001
Members of the 7th IEC Delegation: Haluk Gerger [Turkey], Padma Ratna Tuladhar [Nepal], Jaime Bonilla [Colombia], Peter Erlinder [United States], Heriberto Ocasio [United States], José Enrique González Ruiz [México], Juan José Landinez [Colombia]

close of the press conference.

The attitude of the press towards the delegation was quite mixed. The international make up of the 7th delegation was clearly both newsworthy and controversial. At the press conference one "reporter" repeatedly demanded to know of Haluk Gerger, from Turkey: who was paying the delegates \$20,000 for coming to Lima? After Mr. Gerger made it clear that he was a volunteer, and able to come to Lima due to the contributions of many people, he asked his inquisitor if he was from the Secret Police?

But he did not answer.

Some of the press coverage was careful to list all of the delegates and where they had come from. However some of the TV coverage cut out the fact that one of the delegates was from Nepal, Padma Ratna Tuladhar, much less that he was a former Minister of Health and Labour. In fact the copy of the videotape purchased by the delegation from one such station did not begin until after Mr. Tuladhar was introduced and was half way through his statement.

Fortunately, the delegation had their own audio tape of the entire press conference and the following is a transcription of what the TV station chose to censor:

"Well, I am from Nepal, a country far from Peru. Our country is the country of the Himalayas and we have the tallest mountain, Everest. In our part of the world, that is South Asia, and especially India and Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Comrade Guzman is highly respected as one of the great revolutionary

leaders of the world. So when he was arrested, and the people knew that he was ill-treated in prison, especially that he was imprisoned in a cage-like prison, the people worried about his life."

Another reporter asked what basis the delegation had for "calling them political prisoners...Abimael Guzman is not simply a terrorist, but he is the leader of a bloody movement, because here have been many deaths in our country?"

Peter Erlinder spoke to the "legal basis."

"...your definition or mine about who is a terrorist, or who isn't a terrorist, is not recognised as relevant with respect to international law and the treatment of individuals accused of a crime, and any attempt to characterise a prisoner with a political label is completely contrary to international law. Individuals of course can do as they please, but lawyers who respect international law, and governments that respect international law, cannot do that."

Heriberto Ocasio also responded to this line of questioning:

"With respect to the things that you say about the war that has been led by Dr. Guzman, on this we should say that while we (the delegation) have different points of view, different political views, ideologies, and on methods of struggle, on one thing we are in agreement, and it is that the way the government of Fujimori and Montesinos, and also the United States, through the CIA and their other agencies, try to label movements,

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to call them terrorists and this type of thing, is something we don't accept, because it is something used to deny the people their fundamental rights. How the people choose to struggle in Peru is not for us to decide, that is for the Peruvian people to decide".



Dr. Abimael Guzman, Sept. 1992.

The morning after the press conference, a popular TV news and talk show featured a debate between the IEC delegate from Mexico, Dr. Enrique Gonzalez, and a former top general of DINCOTE, the notorious "anti-terrorist" police. In the course of the show the moderator repeated several times the full name of IEC and why the delegation was in Lima. Footage from the press conference was aired, as well as old clips from Dr. Guzman's speech from the cage on September 24, 1992

With the press coverage the word about the 7th IEC delegation spread throughout Peru. People on the street recognised the delegates and found ways to thank them for coming. Some called their hotel room, simply leaving an anonymous "Thank You" message. Relatives of political prisoners expressed their thanks and asked that people around the world intensify the pressure on the Peru government to respect the life and rights of all political prisoners.

In one encounter, one of the delegates was quietly pulled aside by someone on the street. The Peruvian pointed to a picture in a newspaper of the delegation at the press conference and shook the delegate's hand. The two embraced warmly and then parted.

However, the interim government of Peru did not have the same warm feelings for the 7th delegation. After high ranking authorities at three major offices, especially the Ministry of Justice, had given the impression for several days that a visit with Dr. Guzman was both legally in order, but also likely, on Monday, April 2 the delegation was informed by that Ministry of Justice that the visit could not take place. The excuse given was that the military had objections, which contradicted what the President of the Supreme Council of Military Justice had told the delegation on Tuesday, March 26th.

On receiving this denial the delegates issued a press release, dated April 2, 2001, which read in part:

"The International Delegation - which has been in Peru during the last week of March - met with the office of the Peruvian Ombudsman, the Supreme Council of Military Justice, and the Ministry of Justice.

But these officials did not allow a visit between Dr. Guzman and his lawyers. Yet these same official bodies concede that the fundamental rights of Peru's political prisoners - who are held in subhuman and torturous conditions - have been violated, as in the case of Dr. Abimael Guzman."

We will continue to demand an end to the

isolation of Dr. Guzman, and of others held in the special prison at the El Callao naval base who are suffering similar conditions of isolation - including Mr. Oscar Ramirez Durand who was more recently imprisoned there.

"Our committee will also continue to demand that Dr. Guzman be allowed to speak live and in person before the press. This would serve as evidence that the Peruvian government is correcting the grave violations committed by the Alberto Fujimori regime.

"If the Peruvian government does not respond to these demands, the international community concerned about fundamental Human Rights will realize that, even in times of a supposed democratic opening in Peru, the rights of political prisoners continue to be violated."

The work of the 7th IEC delegation and what took place while they were in Lima is of great importance. The delegation seized upon openings in the political situation in Peru and pushed through cracks in the Peru ruling ranks. In doing so they probably widened those fissures and did very sharply expose the chasm between the new image the government wants to project and the reality in Peru. The ruling ranks in Peru and U.S. are having to deal with the collapse, exposure and scandal of the fascistic edifice and operation of the CIA-Fujimori-Montesinos regime. Sayan, the Minister of Justice is said to have "human rights credentials." Mr. De Cuellar, the Prime Minister, was once the Secretary General of the United Nations. They are trying project an image of a transition to a "new government" which will look different from the old one, but which must, in reality carry on the oppressive U.S.- controlled set up in Peru.

It was in part due to these conditions that the delegation was able to meet with high-ranking government officials and challenge them to live up to international and Peruvian legal norms and treaties in the treatment of all political prisoners, and Dr. Guzman in particular. It was in this political situation that these officials had to acknowledge, whether they wanted to or not, that there was no

legal basis for denying Dr. Guzman contact with the lawyers. This was an important advance on the legal front, within the overall political situation.

However, in the end the government overruled their own admission that they have no legal basis for not allowing the lawyers to talk with Dr. Guzman and denied access anyway. And this comes more than eight years after his trial in a faceless military court, the legitimacy of which has been officially rejected by the Inter-American Court. That is the Court that the Fujimori regime "pulled out of" rather than abide by its rulings precisely on the illegality of military trials of civilians, the Court that the "new" government says that it will abide by.

It could not be more clear that the treatment of Dr. Guzman, and of Oscar Ramirez Durand, and other political prisoners in Peru, has nothing to do with legal or human rights. It was, and still is, motivated by the political and economic interests of those in power in Peru and the United States.

This has also again underlined that the struggle to end the isolation of Dr. Guzman, and of Oscar Ramirez Durand, is above all a political battle, as is the effort to force the Peruvian government to allow Dr. Guzman to speak for himself live and in person before the press. ★

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IEC EMERGENCY BULLETIN #61

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- IEC 7th Delegation Preparations
- Officials Say Dr. Guzman was on Hunger Strike
- Presidential Elections
- Details of CIA-Led Effort which Captured Dr. Guzman Surface
- Videos Reveal Widespread Official Corruption
- US DEA Confirms Military Collusion with Drug Traffickers
- Poor Families Fight to Defend Land Takeovers
- "Brutal Recession" of Peru Economy Continues
- Reports of Maoist People's War
- International Campaign Reports
- Political Prisoners in Turkey: Isolation is Torture!

Day of Heroism: 19 June 1986

This blood that has been spilt shall never be forgotten!

June 19, 2001

Fifteen years ago, on 19 June 1986, the Peruvian government coldly murdered about 300 of the prisoners of war who had turned their places of confinement into "shining trenches of combat" to advance the People's War. These men and women comrades set a standard for persisting in revolutionary struggle by any means possible even in the clutches of the enemy; this is a new and higher standard that comrades held captive today in Peru and in other countries are upholding and implementing in many concrete ways. It is a testament to the enduring impact of what has been commemorated by Maoists and other revolutionaries around the world as the "Day of Heroism".

As the People's War in Peru initiated in 1980 surged forward under the leadership of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) and its Chairman Gonzalo, and especially after the success of the Party's policy of organising breakouts, most spectacularly a guerrilla attack on a local lock-up in Ayacucho that freed hundreds of prisoners, the reactionary regime adopted the policy of concentrating "suspected terrorists" in Lima. But even behind bars these prisoners did not give up. They lived collectively, to the degree possible in these hell holes, so as to better withstand the enemy's efforts to break their bodies and minds. They carried out political, ideological and physical training and the production of art and handicrafts meant to support and spur on the People's War in Peru and revolution throughout the world.

One of the best-known of these was a magnificent multicoloured rug celebrating the founding of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, with the symbol of the globe breaking free of its chains. This tangible token of proletarian internationalist politics and indomitable Maoist spirit was smuggled out of the El Frontón island prison and taken along as part of a world tour in support of the People's War, amazing and inspiring the thousands in Asia, Europe and the

Americas who saw it. The paintings, recorded revolutionary choral music and other artworks produced by the prisoners helped advance (and finance) the world-wide movement to support the People's War in Peru, and along with the poems, songs, plays and other works created while in the clutches of the enemy, continue to play a role in the struggle today.

Rather than being taken "out of combat" by their capture, these men and women kept striving to concretise the slogan "it's right to rebel" in every way they could. Most importantly, they found methods to use their collective strength and the government's inability to quench their raging spirits to expose the regime and call on the masses in their millions to support and wage more and more People's War. When it became clear that the authorities were about to try to "solve" this problem by desperate and bloody measures involving transfers and killing, the inmates took over the country's main facilities for political prisoners, declaring, "We are going to resist. They will not transfer us out of here alive. We demand guarantees against the government's

negotiate with the prisoners, who had raised the reasonable demands that it abide by a previous agreement to recognise them as "special prisoners" and not as "terrorist criminals", and that the transfers be abandoned. But soon it carried out the massacres it had long planned. It sent in its marines armed with

heavy machine guns and antitank weapons, helicopter gunships and naval artillery. Prisoners at El Frontón held out through two days of hand-to-hand combat, using slings, home-made crossbows and a small handful of captured weapons. The inmates at Lurigancho kept the armed forces commandos and marines at bay for a full day; most of them were

methodically murdered after the prison was recaptured. Fighters at the Callao women's prison also held off the enemy for about 24 hours, at the cost of several dead and many wounded.

As is well known, this despicable act by the regime backfired. It contributed to the exposure and isolation of the regime and helped show millions that the People's War under the leadership of the PCP is the only way to resolve Peru's problems. In this sense, instead of the political defeat that the regime had sought to inflict on the People's War by "reasserting its authority" and demonstrating its infinite capacity for bloodshed, it was the prisoners who dealt a blow to Peruvian reaction and its imperialist backers.

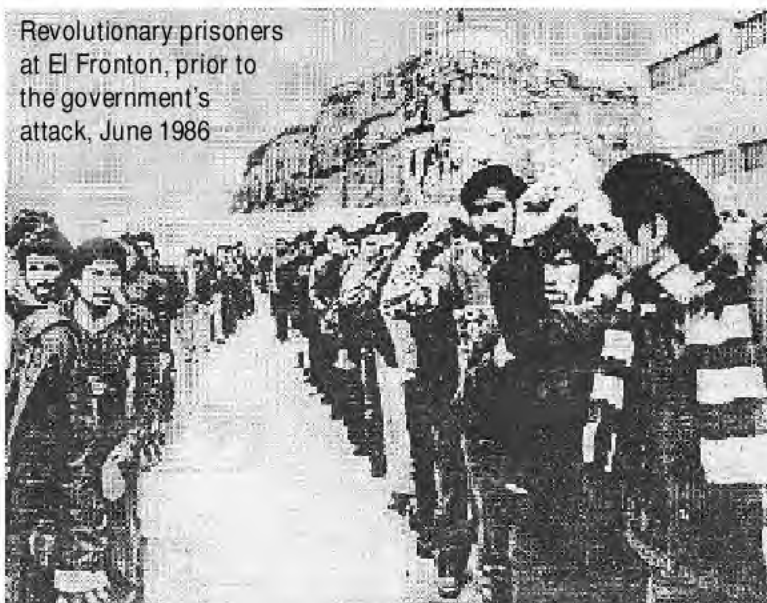
But of course the enemy's thirst for the people's blood is never satisfied. In 1992, as the Fujimori government plotted another massacre in Canto Grande prison in Lima, prisoners seized the men's and women's cellblocks and demanded the establishment of a commission to oversee the planned transfers of prisoners and guarantee their lives.

On 6 May, Fujimori sent in 500 elite troops with rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, dynamite satchels and plastic explosives, as well as a rocket-firing combat helicopter. When they were

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Revolutionary prisoners at El Frontón, prior to the government's attack, June 1986



plans." On the high walls at El Frontón, they painted, in giant letters, "Finish Off the Great Leap with a Gold Seal," referring to the final phase of the Party's military campaign to win base areas and clearly situating their own actions in this context.

The government hypocritically pretended to

Above: A few frames of a longer picture story created by the PCP to mark the Day of Heroism.

Elections Cont.

aimed at *overthrowing* the thoroughly rotten state and *liberating* Peru from the grip of imperialism.

The revolutionary base areas organized by the PCP in the countryside through the People's War have given a glimpse of a new society. These are areas where poor peasants join workers to organize communities with a whole new and liberating way of life. People join together to collectively organize the economy and other aspects of life. Women are no longer raped or abused. Education is organized in people's indigenous languages.

Despite all that the imperialists and the Peruvian reactionaries have thrown at them, the PCP

continues to persevere in the liberating path of People's War. The Peruvian media reported on military actions by the PCP during the election period.

The Maoist People's War in Peru continues to be of great concern to the U.S. imperialists. During the June 3 election, an official delegation led by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright was in Peru to "observe." Albright said, "It is of concern to the United States...if a country is able to run itself so that there are not areas that are not under the control of the government..." She was voicing worries about the continuing People's War

and the ability of the Peruvian rulers to stay in control and defend U.S. imperialist interests.

The PCP called on the people to boycott the recent elections. In a 1985 document, the PCP explained their view of bourgeois elections: "The people cannot serve their exploiters and oppressors, cannot help them solve their problems, cannot endorse their social system—to say nothing of electing another government that will bring more hunger and cause more genocide." This analysis remains very relevant today. ★

Day of Heroism Cont.

beaten back, the next day a thousand soldiers tried to storm the prison, once again in vain. Finally, on 9 May, the women and men prisoners summed up that they had fully accomplished their aims, and marched out arm in arm singing the *Internationale*. The cowardly reactionary beasts singled out and murdered many prisoners suspected of being leaders. Among these communist heroes several very important Party members fell.

Despite the difficulties suffered by the People's War after the capture of Chairman Gonzalo, the People's War in Peru has never stopped for a minute. As part of this, prisoners there have also kept fighting in the spirit expressed by Chairman Gonzalo in his historic 24 September 1992 speech. From inside a cage where the government was attempting to humiliate him and the entire revolution before the press, he disparaged his imprisonment as simply "a bend in the road". He defiantly called for the People's War to continue, declaring "Though the road is long, we shall travel it to the end. We will reach our goal and we will win. You will see it."

Later, a Right Opportunist Line arose, especially in the prisons, which betrayed this stand, the blood so generously shed by countless people's heroes and the legacy of the Day of Heroism, using Chairman Gonzalo's capture as an excuse to call for an end to the war. What can be said of the People's War as a whole also applies to the prisoners who have held out under the enemy's unrelenting attacks—their political and ideological line and unwavering determination are proving stronger than all the enemy's unlimited capacity for terror.

Important rebellions and other struggles against the regime's attempts to rob prisoners of their revolutionary morale, their humanity and their lives broke out in Peru in early 2000, and again earlier this year. Despite the recent change in government, the new regime is no less backed by and beholden to U.S. imperialism than its predecessor, and the country's prisons are still teeming with thousands of revolutionaries held in



the most brutal conditions. Above all, Chairman Gonzalo continues to be confined in a barbaric underground dungeon. A major component part of our unstinting international support for the People's War in Peru is the struggle to break the isolation of Chairman Gonzalo, to force the government to allow his public presentation so that he can express his views freely, and also to defend the life of Comrade Feliciano, who took up the responsibilities of leadership after Chairman Gonzalo's imprisonment until he in turn was snatched by the enemy and placed in isolation in the same inhuman subterranean cells.

The last two decades have provided dramatic proof of the degree to which the People's War is bound up with the spirit and struggle of its captured fighters. Clearly struggles by captured revolutionaries are closely linked with People's War, the highest form of class struggle, because the enemy tries to terrorise the people by subjecting its unarmed captives to every conceivable cruelty, while Maoist politics, outlook and class stand can enable them to make major contributions even in the most unfavourable circumstances.

This is being shown sharply by today's ongoing heroic battle by revolutionary prisoners in Turkey, including many members and supporters of the Communist Party of Turkey (Marxist-Leninist). In Turkey, too, prisoners turned their places of confinement into beacons and bastions and universities of revolution, and here, too, the imperialist-backed authorities have tried to drown those revolutionary flames with blood. So far, dozens of these imprisoned comrades have given their lives to resist being moved into isolation cells. Their morale is high in large part because they understand that in attacking them in this way the government is seeking to deal a political and moral blow to the entire revolutionary movement and to the broad millions of masses who look to it, and because they see the links between their resistance today and the fight to advance the cause of People's War in that country.

In Nepal, also, the People's War has inevitably meant growing numbers of comrades crowded into prisons, and likewise the struggle behind the walls is inseparably linked to that outside. Recently the daring escape of six women prisoners who dug a tunnel out of the Gorkha district gaol so that they could successfully rejoin their guerrilla units has delighted and inspired people on every continent.

As the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru said in its statement of June 1986, "The glorious death of these prisoners of war in battle is wrapped in the blood already spilt, and before it we communists, we fighters and sons and daughters of the people, pledge our unwavering commitment to follow their shining example, to advance the People's War in order to serve the world revolution until the inextinguishable light of communism dwells upon the whole earth under the unconquered and always verdant banners of Marx, Lenin and Mao, of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Glory to the fallen heroes, long live the revolution!" ★

Montesinos Captured, Returned to Peru

Vladimiro Montesinos, the right-hand man of former President Alberto Fujimori, led the intelligence service that spied, tortured, disappeared, and killed thousands of Peruvians. Montesinos now sits in the El Callao prison that he built to house rebel leaders in Peru. How fitting that this torturer—trained at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia—is getting a taste of the inhuman prison conditions that he designed. Montesinos is demanding to be moved out of this dungeon—made up of eight small cells—saying it violates his human rights. One must ask, when is Chairman Gonzalo (Dr. Abimael Guzman) going to be moved out of this same dungeon where he has been kept isolated for over eight years?

The people's war struggles forward, overcoming setbacks, and advancing. Meanwhile the two men who repeatedly bragged that the Maoist revolution led by the PCP would "soon be defeated" stand before the world disgraced. Alberto Fujimori

shamefully resigning the presidency by fax from his imperialist protector Japan, and the other languishing in the prison of his own design.

The BBC (7/1/01) reported that imprisoned rebels at El Callao are protesting Montesinos' arrival as it has made conditions worse for them—including even less time allowed out of their cells (usually already limited to 30 min. a day).

The victory of the People's War is the only thing that can liberate Peru and bring justice to the people. But when a regime is in a crisis, good things can happen. People around the world look forward to what exposures of sordid dirty tricks and horrendous crimes might come with the capture and trial of Montesinos. These events have shown the utter worthlessness of US-backed puppet regimes and U.S. imperialist plans for Peru. *Available online & by mail, the CSRP's January statement, "Celebrate the Fall of the US-Puppet Fujimori—Support the People's War in Peru!"* ★

Lori Berenson Railroaded, Again

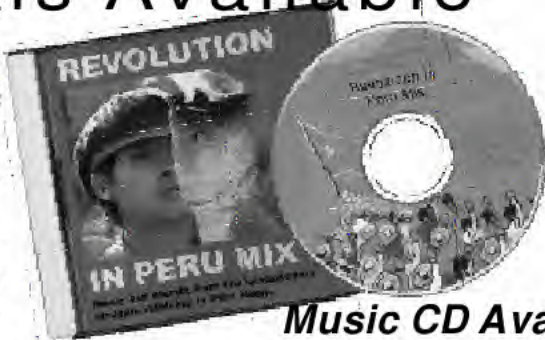
New York journalist and political activist Lori Berenson was first railroaded by a military tribunal of hooded judges and imprisoned in Peru five years ago. That military conviction was thrown out in August, and Berenson has now been re-convicted by a civilian proceeding.

While most of the 5,000 political prisoners in Peru were convicted because of alleged sympathies with the PCP, Berenson was convicted of allegedly assisting the armed-reformist group MRTA. Berenson has consistently denied the charges against her. Regardless, the Peruvian regimes have used her case to set an example for others who would consider traveling to Peru in order to "stand with the people" in any way.

It is telling that the new regime relied on the fascist anti-terrorist degrees of the Fujimori-Montesinos government for this second railroad. See www.freelori.org for more information presented by Berenson's family and supporters. ★

Materials Available

MUSIC CD: "Revolution in Peru Mix" Traditional folk music from Peru set to lyrics of the revolutionary struggle—mixed with the voices of revolutionary fighters and prisoners. Mixed, compiled and remastered from various previously available sources. 73 minutes. \$12.50.



Music CD Available!

T-SHIRT & STICKER: "Viva la guerra popular en el Peru! - Yankee go home! U.S. out of Peru!" (design on masthead) T-shirt is black on red. \$17.00, in L or XL. Stickers are red on yellow, 4"x5". \$25 each.

VIDEO: The People of the Shining Path (1992). Must see British documentary on the revolution in Peru. Interviews with fighters, supporters in the cities and more. \$17.00, 55 min. VHS.

VIDEO: You Must Tell the World... chronicles the worldwide efforts of the IEC (1994). \$17.00, 55 min. VHS.

BOOK: Quotations from Chairman Mao Tsetung aka the "Red Book." What is a Maoist revolution? \$10.00, 312 small pages.

BOOK: Interview with Chairman Gonzalo (1988). \$8.00, 109 pages.

PEOPLE'S PIN: "Support the People's War in Peru!" enamel on copper pin. \$3.75, 1"x1" (image bottom-left).

PAMPHLET: The International Campaign to Defend the Life of Dr. Abimael Guzmán A richly illustrated pamphlet covering the first year of the IEC campaign. Highly recommended as an introduction to the IEC (1993). \$2.50, 35 pages (image right).

PAMPHLET: Overcome the Bend in the Road, Developing the People's War (PCP 1995) \$3.00, 12 pages.

PAMPHLET: Why the People's War in Peru Is Justified and Why It Is the Road to Liberation. (May 95) \$2.50, 20 pages.

PAMPHLET: The Road of Liberation—Strategy and Goals of the Revolution. (Feb 97) \$1.50, 16 pages.

PAMPHLET: Rally to the Defence of Our Red Flag Flying in Peru! CoRIM on the two-line struggle. \$2.00, 12 pages.

PERIODICAL: A World to Win (AWTW) #26 (Sept 00) This issue: Accelerating the World Revolution, Interview with RIM Committee, On the Strategy of People's War in India, and 20 Years of Continuing People's War in Peru, and more. Inspired by the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. Back issues also available. \$7.00, 88 pages (image below).

Complete materials catalog available. Make check or money order payable to "CSRP". Allow 3-4 weeks for your stuff.

VIDEO: Revolution in Peru Compilation previously four tapes, including Revolution in Peru (CSRP) and Dr. Guzmán's Speech from a Cage (1992). \$17.00, 140 min. VHS.



Become a member. Join the CSRP!

Thanks for checking out the revolution in Peru and our group—based here in the U.S., the country most responsible for the misery of the people of Peru. The Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRP) is all-volunteer, from our dedicated national office staff to our student organizers. We rely on your yearly membership dues, material purchases, and donations to pay our national office rent, phone, postage and other regular expenses.

Recent Mail bag Highlights

I received a copy of PAN at the Democratic National Convention protests. I was intrigued... The resistance of the PCP is inspiring. I am sure that I know people who would be interested in contributing to save Peru from U.S. imperialism... I can guarantee you that whatever you send me will be made available to the public... informing others about this glorious example of people standing up for their individual and social rights.
- Student Activist, Arizona

Don't forget to keep us informed about your work as we can distribute info locally, so do send us what you can! Revolutionary Solidarity Greetings.
- Irish Comrades

I am an anarchist, punk, vegan, who is currently incarcerated against my will. I would like to know more about the CSRP...
- In Solidarity, Connecticut

Last month I sent a donation for the 7th delegation. Enclosed today is another for the same purpose... I hope the people who signed the early 1990's IEC petitions come through during this urgent campaign! Forward!
- IEC Supporter, Wisconsin

I am trying to begin a support coalition for your movement at my high school and need to acquire the following supplies to build interest...
- Organizer in Massachusetts

But what can I do?

- * Join the CSRP! Pay your membership dues.
- * Order and distribute CSRP materials (discounts for bulk orders). Order a video and show it to friends.
- * Send us news clippings about Peru.
- * Copy CSRP leaflets and get them to friends. Order bundles of Peru Action and News.
- * Get CSRP posters up everywhere.
- * Support the efforts of the IEC to defend the life of Dr. Guzman and break his isolation from the outside world.
- * Call or write--Stay in touch!

Wonderful news about the delegation arriving in Peru! Thank you for all your efforts! Enclosed is my sustainer donation...plus an extra contribution for the delegation. To victory in the struggle!
- Sister in Seattle

Please accept my contribution to help send the 7th IEC delegation to Peru. I am honored to be able to help...
- British Columbia

I sent \$4 to donate to the 7th IEC delegation to Peru. I know that it isn't much, but it's all I can spare at the moment... I hope it helps in some small way help end the isolation of Dr. Abimael Guzman and other human rights abuses in Peru.
- Friend, Missouri

This money is for the 7th Delegation with the wish that best results will be achieved. Please send me CSRP stickers. My city is overpopulated with North American NATO soldiers; it is fun to spread Sendero souvenirs in this town!
- Teacher, Northern Italy

Our "Principles of Unity"

Since 1984, we have upheld the following main points: 1. Develop political support for the People's War in Peru. 2. Popularize the writings of the Communist Party of Peru and other materials; and expose the slanders about the revolution. 3. Organize opposition to the repression carried out against the revolution and the Peruvian people. 4. Organize opposition to foreign intervention in Peru—mainly of the U.S.—while opposing U.S. intervention anywhere in Latin America.

I want to join the CSRP and help carry out our "Principles of Unity." \$25 one-year membership includes your choice of:

- ☐ "Yankee Go Home!" red t-shirt. Specify: L or XL
- ☐ or The People of the Shining Path video (VHS, 55 min)
- ☐ or any other item on our materials list.

Specify: _____

Optional \$10 Low Income Membership guarantees all mailings—but no T-shirt or stuff.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Call me! _____ - _____ - _____

- ☐ Here's a donation. (thanks!) \$5 \$20 \$50 \$_____
- ☐ Send me a bundle of the most recent Peru Action & News \$5 for 15 \$10 for 40 \$25 each 125
- ☐ Friends outside of the U.S., \$US20 covers int'l mailing so that we can send regular updates and bulletins.

clip and mail to:

CSRP, PO Box 1246, Berkeley CA 94701

checks and money orders payable to "CSRP"

check all boxes that apply * please print clearly